

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-05

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R 060705Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO USODC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WA YDC 8YQ

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY DOHA POUCH

UNCLAS KUWAIT 0485

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: BEXP XF

SUBJ: WATER RESOURCES TRADE MISSION

REF: 1) USDOC 0986; 2) KUWAIT 0440; 3) MANAMA 0033

1. FOR DOHA, DUBAI AND KUWAIT, WE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS PROPOSED ITINERARY MISSION OR ADVANCE OFFICER, HOWEVER FEW OBSERVATIONS MIGHT BE IN ORDER, ESPECIALLY RE PARA 5 REFTEL 1.

2. HOPE COMMERCE AWARE THAT MOST OF ITINERARY BASED ON GULF AIR NOVEMBER 1973 SCHEDULE WHICH, IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, WILL CHANGE APRIL 1, 1974. AS STATED MANAMA REFTEL, PRESUME TWO DAY STOP MANAMA SCHEDULED ON BASIS AWARENESS THAT APRIL 4 (OR 3 OR 5) MUSLIM HOLIDAY (PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY) AND APRIL 5 FRIDAY, A NON-WORKING DAY. (NOTE THAT IF HOLIDAYS FALLS ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY WILL ALSO BE HOLIDAY). AGREE THAT BAHRAIN FAR NICER PLACE SPEND ENFORCED TWO-DAY HOLIDAY THAN EITHER KUWAIT OR DOHA; HOWEVER, IF MISSION WOULD PREFER, THERE NON-STOP KUWAIT-DOHA FLIGHT (GF 028, CURRENT SCHEDULE) DEPARTING THURSDAY EVENINGS 1740, ARRIVING 1850. THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, ADD ONE DAY EACH TO KUWAIT AND DOHA, BUT THEY PROBABLY WOULD

BE NON-PRODUCTIVE DAYS.

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3. SINCE STOPOVER DUBAI MERELY PLANE CHANGE FOR BOTH MISSION AND ADVANCE OFFICER, DUBAI AIRPORT ONE OF MOST EFFICIENT IN AREA, AND EMBASSY ABU DHABI HAS NO PERSONNEL IN DUBAI, EMBASSY ABU DHABI WILL NOT RPT NOT PLAN MEET AND ASSIST AT DUBAI.

4. RE MISSION RECRUITMENT, WE REITERATE OUR PREVIOUS SUGGESTION FOR VERY BROAD-BASED MISSION ANCHORED WITH SEVERAL WELL-KNOWN FIRMS. THIS WILL ASSIST POSTS IN GAINING ENTREE TO UPPER ECHELONS MIN ELECTRICITY AND WATER, WHICH IN KUWAIT LATELY HAS SHOWN COOLNESS O US FIRMS, WHILE INSURING THAT NO MEW OR MINPUBLIC WORKS OFFICIAL BE OVERLY TAXED BY LONG STRING OF APPOINTMENTS WITH FIRMS SELLING SAME LINE OF GOODS. THIS USUALLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FOR PROMOTION US GOODS AND UNFAIR TO ALL CONCERNED. MOREOVER, IN MOST CASES WE AGAINST RECRUITMENT OF FIRMS ALREADY HAVING LOCAL AGENT, SINCE THIS MAKES FULL SCHEDULING IMPOSSIBLE AND PLACES POST IN EMBARRASSING PRE-DICAMENT IF FIRMS SEEKING CHANGE LOCAL REP.

5. REGIONAL ECONOMIC OFFICER TENTATIVELY PLANNING ACCOMPANY BOTH ADVANCE OFFICER AND MISSION TO DOHA. AFTER THIS MISSION HE HOPES ACCOMPANY COMMUNICATIONS TRADE MISSION DOHA AND BAHRAIN (SEE KUWAIT REFTTEL). AS THIS TRAVEL WILL BE IN SUPPORT OF THESE MISSIONS, BUDGETS BOTH MISSIONS SHOULD INCLUDE FUNDS FOR REO RAVEL. COST WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$500 FOR WATER RESOURCES MISSION AND \$525 FOR COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT MISSION. STOLTZFUS

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